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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
----------118237 090908Z /15
R 071106Z DEC 77 K
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 11665

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, US, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PREPARATIONS FOR TALKS WITH
SOUTH AFRICANS

REF: GENEVA 11440

FURTHER TO REFTEL, U.K. MISSION FURNISHED FOLLOWING
REPORT OF MEETING WITH UNHCR DECEMBER 2, 1977:
QUOTE: THE UNHCR OFFICIALS CONFIRMED MOST OF THE INFOR-
MATION, ALTHOUGH THEY THOUGHT THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 800
DISSIDENTS ORIGINALLY IN MBOROMA. THEY COULD NOT COMMENT
ON THE DETAINEE POINT (PARA 3, REFTEL) BUT MIGHT BE ABLE
TO DO SO LATER. THEY SAID THERE WERE NOW SOME 350
NAMIBIAN REFUGEES IN THE UNHCR'S ONE CAMP AT MAHEBA. FEW
OF THOSE THERE BEFORE THE 196 WERE TRANSFERRED FROM
MBOROMA WERE LIKELY TO BE DISSIDENTS. UNHCR HAD LET IT
BE KNOWN THAT ANY REMAINING SWAPO DISSIDENTS WOULD BE
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WELCOME IN MAHEBA. NONE OF THE NAMIBIANS HAD WITHIN
RECENT MEMORY APPLIED FOR REPATRIATION ALTHOUGH IT WAS,
OF COURSE, UNHCR'S WORLD-WIDE POLICY TO ENCOURAGE THIS.
AS FAR AS UNHCR WAS CONCERNED ALL THOSE IN MAHEBA WERE
PERFECTLY FREE TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA. WHETHER THE ZAMBIAN
GOVERNMENT OR SWAPO WOULD LET THEM GO WAS ANOTHER MATTER
ON WHICH THE UNHCR COULD NOT COMMENT.

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UNHCR KNEW OF AT LEAST ONE OTHER SWAPO CAMP IN ZAMBIA AND ALSO OF THE SWAPO FARM NEAR KAOMA. THE LATTER CONTAINED 2,100 NAMIBIAN CHILDREN FOR WHOM UNHCR HAD SO FAR CONTRIBUTED $10,500 OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. UNHCR WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ON THESE TWO PLACES ALTHOUGH THEY WERE TRYING TO OBTAIN ACCESS FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT THE FARM. SWAPO APPARENTLY SEEKS LESS AID FROM UNHCR THAN OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

IN REPLY TO THE POINT ABOUT ATTESTING TO THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE DECISIONS MADE BY NAMIBIANS, THE UNHCR OFFICIALS SAID THAT WHEN LARGE SCALE REPATRIATION WAS CONTEMPLATED, AS FOR EXAMPLE IN THE SUDAN, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WERE INVITED TO VISIT THE CAMPS TO EXPLAIN MATTERS TO THE REFUGEES. NATURALLY SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD ONLY BE MADE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT. NO REFUGEE WAS REPATRIATED WITHOUT HIS ATTESTING THAT THIS WAS OF HIS OWN FREE WILL. END QUOTE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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